

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A guiding pillar trim for a side-curtain airbag system of a vehicle, comprising:

a panel member for covering a vehicle body structure; and

a guide member coupled to said panel member;

said guide member having a wedge shape;

said guide member being rotatable upon inflation of an airbag system from a first trim configuration position forming a portion of said panel member to a second ramp configuration position;

said guide member in said second position being supported by said panel member and forming a ramp configuration directing the deployment of an airbag from said airbag system in a predetermined direction;

said guide member being releasably secured to said panel member by at least one anchor member, said anchor member releasably holding said guide member in said first position.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The guiding pillar trim recited in claim 1 wherein said anchor member is positioned on said guide member and said panel member has at least one aperture formed therein for receiving said at least one anchor member.

4. (Previously Presented) The guiding pillar trim recited in claim 1 wherein said anchor member is positioned on said panel member and said guide member has at least one aperture formed therein for mating with said anchor member.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The guiding pillar trim recited in claim 1 wherein said guide member is coupled to said panel member by at least one tether member extending from said guide member.

7. (Previously Presented) The guiding pillar trim recited in claim 6 wherein said panel member has at least one hole formed therein for mating with said tether member.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The guiding pillar trim recited in claim 1 wherein said guide member in said second position directs the deployment of a side-curtain airbag generally away from a seatbelt mechanism.

11. (Previously Presented) The guiding pillar trim recited in claim 10 wherein said guide member is coupled to a top end portion of said panel member, said seatbelt mechanism being generally disposed adjacent at least one of a middle portion and a bottom end portion of said panel member.

12. (Previously Presented) The guiding pillar trim recited in claim 1 wherein said panel member has a deflecting surface and said guide member has a routing surface, said deflecting surface and said routing surface positioned to direct the deployment of said side-curtain airbag in said predetermined direction when said guide member is in said second position.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The guiding pillar trim recited in claim 1 wherein said guide member has a load-receiving portion for receiving a load from a side-curtain airbag and moving said guide member to said second position.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A side-curtain airbag system for a vehicle comprising:

- a crash sensor for detecting a vehicle crash;

- an inflator device coupled to and actuated by said crash sensor;

- a side-curtain airbag coupled to and inflated by said inflator device; and

- a guiding pillar trim member including a panel member for covering a body structure and a guide member coupled to said panel member, said guide member being that is movable between a trim configuration and a ramp configuration, said guide member guiding pillar trim in said ramp configuration for directing said side-curtain airbag in a predetermined direction; and

- a biasing member coupled between said guide member and said panel member;

- said biasing member for biasing said guide member in said trim configuration;

~~said guiding pillar trim including a panel for covering a vehicle body structure and a guide member coupled said panel, said guide member being movable between said trim configuration and said ramp configuration;~~

said guiding pillar trim member including at least one tether member coupled between said panel member and said guide member for securing said guide member in said ramp configuration.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The side-curtain airbag system recited in claim 17 wherein said panel member has at least one aperture formed therein for receiving at least one releasable anchor extending from said guide member so as to secure said guide member in said trim configuration.

20. (Currently Amended) The side-curtain airbag system recited in claim 17 wherein said guide member has at least one aperture formed therein for receiving at least one releasable anchor extending from said panel member so as to secure said guide member in said trim configuration.

21. (Currently Amended) A guiding pillar trim member for a side-curtain airbag system of a vehicle comprising:

a panel member for covering a vehicle body structure; and

a guide member coupled to said panel member and being movable between a trim configuration position and a ramp configuration position;

said guide member having a wedge shape;

said guide member in said ramp configuration position being supported by said panel member and directing the deployment of a side-curtain airbag in a predetermined direction;

said guide member having at least one tether member extending therefrom for attaching to said panel member and securing said guide member to said panel member.

22. (Currently Amended) The guiding pillar trim member recited in claim 21 wherein said panel member has at least one hole formed therein for receiving said tether member.

23. (Currently Amended) The guiding pillar trim member recited in claim 21 wherein said panel member has a deflecting surface and said guide member has a routing surface, with said deflecting surface and said routing surface directing the deployment of said side-curtain airbag in said predetermined direction when said guide member is in said ramp configuration.